

CITY OF AUBURN
EXAMINING BOARD OF PLUMBERS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012

Members Present: Mr. Frank Siracusa, Mr. Bill Orman, Mr. Greg Gallinger, Mr. Steve Bianco, Mr. Carl Castiglione

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Kim Bauso, Brian Hicks

Frank Siracusa called the meeting to order on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Frank Siracusa: First order of business is accepting the minutes of the previous meeting.

[Minutes accepted by Board Members]

Mr. Siracusa: I really don't have anything. Want to go first, see what's going on with you?

Mr. Gallinger: You know that sewer that's going down? When does that have to completed? I have one to do there is why I ask. Before they abandoned the back sewer.

Mr. Siracusa: I don't know but I'd imagine they won't abandon that until all the sewers are hooked in.

Mr. Bianco: I don't think they are going to abandon it. It's going to be up to the people that are still on it. I don't think they're going to get rid of it at all.

Mr. Siracusa: Well, I thought it was all plugged and falling apart?

Mr. Gallinger: That's what I thought too.

Mr. Bianco: I think it's just a maintenance issue.

Mr. Siracusa: Rossi said it was falling apart, if I'm not mistaken. Really plugged & they cannot repair it.

Mr. Bianco: It is but right now it's being used.

Mr. Siracusa: It goes under swimming pools and it's on private property...

Mr. Bianco: Carl, who's had the sewers replaced over off of Elizabeth Street? Between Steel and Janet. How many are on it? How many people use that private sewer?

Mr. Castiglione: Three...

Mr. Bianco: Right, they used to be on a private line. How many are left?

Mr. Castiglione: I have no idea.

Mr. Bianco: There's a few on Steel Street too.

Mr. Castiglione: They've changed it, some go out the front now.

Mr. Siracusa: When they go out the back, who's re-routing them? In the house? Drain Layers?

Mr. Castiglione: They're coming out the side of the house.

Mr. Bianco: So nobody's doing any work in the basement?

Mr. Gallinger: I did. One for Frank Gaglianese. My question was, about that sewer, eventually, you don't think they're going to abandon it?

Mr. Castiglione: Yeah, that one and there's one on Orchard St. that goes behind the houses. Used to be one on Burt Ave. They're getting rid of all the old sewer mains.

Mr. Bianco: The private lines? The City wants to get out of? Like they did with Orchard Street. Is that completely gone now?

Brian Hicks: No, it's a holding area. It's right up to the manhole right now, doesn't go anywhere.

Mr. Siracusa: Billy? Anything?

Mr. Orman: Stickers. Changing the stickers for the Drain Layers? So they're different from the Master Plumbers. We discussed that before, making theirs a different color or something. First we got to get everyone to use them which isn't being done.

Mr. Bianco: I think that should be enforced. We should enforce the stickers if they're going to be working in the City.

Mr. Orman: I think they need to be reminded that they need to have them for all their vehicles.

Kim Bauso: Should I put this in the next newsletter then? I have nothing to go in it right now.

Mr. Orman: Yes. And also what would be a good idea, Kim, would be a congratulatory mention to the recent people who passed the test.

Kim Bauso: Okay.

Mr. Bianco: Anyways, different colors for the Drain Layers is a good idea so they're not working as plumbers. I got a few invoices that there's a class B guy working as a plumber, he's been warned a few times, now I got it on an invoice, proof that he's working in the City as a plumber so...

[Discussion between members and Brian Hicks regarding possible color change, size change etc. of stickers]

Mr. Orman: Trying to get the guys to go to the sign place to get one, why can't we just have them available at the Codes Office, when they go to renew their license, they're right there for purchase?

Kim Bauso: How would I put license numbers on them that's the problem? They're custom made at the sign place.

Mr. Castiglione: Can you put that in the newsletter?

Kim Bauso: Word it how? That everyone has to have one and we're going to start enforcing it? Okay.

Mr. Bianco: Years ago, we used to send letters to the bigger stores, like Sears saying that we enforce the license. Sears always tried to comply then but I'm not sure who's doing their water heater installations now. Same with Lowes and Home Depot.

Kim Bauso: Lowes is the one we've had issues with before.

Mr. Castiglione: Somebody, I forget, Lowes, when they have a licensed plumber, they have to drop everything they're doing to go put in that water heater right away. They sold it, they promise same day installation...

Mr. Orman: That's why they have a hard time getting a legitimate contractor to install them for them. Number one they tell you how much they're going to pay you to do it and it's never competitive and two, they want it done right away, as soon as they call.

Mr. Bianco: I got to thank Brian for stopping in. We caught someone working in the City the other day, DBR, a Syracuse company, working at the bank, someone drove by and saw DBR working there. We had just enough time to catch these guys before they left. I thought Billy mentioned that they were the same company we had a problem with once. At the Dialysis place. Come to find out it wasn't them.

Mr. Orman: Wasn't that DBR? Carl? Installing water heaters on Nelson Street.

Mr. Castiglione: I think so. I know we took that guy to Court before.

Mr. Orman: I swear it was DBR on Nelson Street.

Mr. Bianco: And at Applebee's?

Mr. Orman: I also believe that DBR was the company that did the water heater at Applebee's on Grant Ave.

Mr. Bianco: So they've already been warned before?

Mr. Castiglione: I'm pretty sure we took them to Court before. Got a \$100 fine out of them.

Kim Bauso: I can check. I'll pull the Court file.

Mr. Bianco: They had sewage leaking through the wall I guess, and they called DBR to come out and fix it. At the bank. The bank, owned by Pioneer and I guess they call DBR now. You're going to get a letter out to him, Carl?

Mr. Orman: Kim, is there a way you can look back and see if it's the same company?

Kim Bauso: Yes. If you believe it was Applebee's I can go into the old violation and pull the Court file. Yes. This does sound familiar.

Mr. Bianco: We need to follow up on this.

Mr. Orman: Check the Dialysis place too please. If it turns out it was the same company...how many times do we have to tell them?

Mr. Bianco: What can this Board do to someone who keeps violating the City Code?

Mr. Castiglione: Fine them. The Judge imposes the fine but they're set in our Code. First time I think they get \$100 fine. They go into Court and have to tell the Judge why they did Plumbing in the City without a license. The Judge has a copy of my Municipal Code.

Mr. Bianco: What about the second time?

Kim Bauso: I think it's another fine. It's like \$100 for the first offense and \$250 or \$300 for the second offense.

Brian Hicks: Generally if you go into Court and it's your second or third time, you should've learned the first time.

Mr. Bianco: This needs to happen then. Get them back in Court.

Mr. Castiglione: The Judge I went in front of was Mike McKeon, he set the fine.

Kim Bauso: It's Judge Shamon now for Housing Court.

Mr. Orman: I think if he understands it's not the first time of this violation, he should set a higher fine.

Brian Hicks: In your Code book there, it tells what your fine levies are.

Mr. Bianco: Make sure the Judge knows it's not his first time. It's like he was rubbing it in our faces, he was right downtown working. Didn't he ask you Brian, something about performing plumbing anywhere he goes?

Brian Hicks: Oh he asked about changing gaskets on toilets is service work so he thought he could do it but plumbing is plumbing.

Mr. Orman: We've discussed that too, the limits of service men. Like in apartment complexes, they have service personnel, we've discussed what they can and can't do. Repairing a faucet or cleaning

a drain or anything in that nature is service and their maintenance people can do that. But when you open a drain or change a toilet or change a trap or a sink, it's plumbing. And it's a violation to do that without a license. Here it is, penalties for violations. [reading from Plumbing Code] "Any person found guilty of plumbing code of this City shall be punishable of a fine not exceeding \$50 for the first offense, not less than \$100, nor more than \$500 for subsequent offenses". So we could be up to \$500. It's the second time.

Mr. Siracusa: All right, just find out what the name is, if it's them. Okay. Steve, do you have anything else?

Mr. Bianco: Condemned property. Brian, if there's a condemned house, can a homeowner, can they re-do the house even if it's condemned? A single family home?

Brian Hicks: Single family home in the City, condemned property, they pass their homeowner's exam, they can do all their plumbing.

Mr. Bianco: How about a two unit?

Mr. Orman: Wait a minute, back up. If that happened, Brian, if that happens, is there a requirement for him to live in the house?

Brian Hicks: No. Not at this point in time. Electrical work, yes.

Mr. Bianco: Wait a minute, something's not right here.

Mr. Castiglione: Look under "Homeowners" in the Code, it'll tell you.

Brian Hicks: If it's a condemned house, how do they live there? Everything's got to match up.

Kim Bauso: They (the Board) changed it a few months ago, that it had to be owner occupied. I'm trying to find my notes. They had me change that Section. *You have to live there*. I wouldn't issue a permit to the person unless they live there at the time they're pulling the permit and for a condemned house, obviously they wouldn't be living there.

[multiple people speaking, inaudible]

Mr. Orman: I got it right here. The way it reads "Special homeowner rules and regulations, personal installation by owner other than a master plumber, shall be by himself, for himself in his own private dwelling in which he will establish his legal residence. The owner exercising this privilege shall not have any help or assistance by any other person other than a master plumber. This homeowner section applies to any one and two family units. It must be owner occupied."

Mr. Siracusa: *Owner occupied*. He's not going to be occupying it if the house is condemned.

Mr. Bianco: Right. Okay.

Mr. Castiglione: Listen to this "which he will establish his legal residence".

Mr. Bianco: Isn't there still a gray area?

Kim Bauso: I would never issue a permit to somebody, a property owner, for a condemned house.

Mr. Bianco: Kim, I'm referring to 3 Perrine Ave. He's in a situation, the guy's in there doing his own work and we put a water meter in there for him, he's in there doing his own plumbing. And I asked him "so you're doing your own plumbing here? This place was condemned, huh?" he says "yeah". Did he get a general permit first?

Kim Bauso: Yes. A whole house remodel permit.

Mr. Bianco: But does that include the plumbing permit?

Brian Hicks: No.

Mr. Bianco: I think that's where people are going wrong though. They get that whole house permit....

Kim Bauso: No. They are told. Building permits and plumbing permits are two totally separate things, not even the same screen in the computer.

Mr. Bianco: So you think they're pulling the wool over your eyes or do they really not get it?

Mr. Siracusa: Oh, I'm sure they get it.

Brian Hicks: That's just what they try, get a whole house remodel permit, then they put in two new bathrooms, they don't tell us.

Mr. Bianco: They know full well that this does not include plumbing and electrical? Can we put that in writing somewhere?

Kim Bauso: It actually might say that already on there. I'd have to look.

[multiple people talking, inaudible]

Mr. Siracusa: We discussed this before. That when people pulled their permit, they're supposed to list their subcontractors. You know I see the building permits in the paper, never plumbing permits. They used to publish plumbing permits too.

Brian Hicks: We have no control over that. That's the Citizen. She comes in once a week and writes down all her permits but they don't print them all.

Mr. Bianco: Why would they do that? Run out of room? [laughter]

Mr. Orman: What would be the scenario if we told the people they cannot have the building permit until all your permits are in order? Don't issue a Start Work until all the other permits are in order.

Mr. Siracusa: We discussed that too. They can't do that.

Mr. Orman: A guy comes in ya know for a permit for a new house, he doesn't know who the other contractors are for another two, three months down the road but I don't agree with that. Anyone who's going to build a house or do major work has got all that in order before they sit down to build. They get all sorts of estimates. If you can *not* issue that permit until all the rest is on order that would eliminate the problem.

Brian Hicks: Never happen.

Mr. Bianco: Why is that?

Brian Hicks: We get pressure from upstairs and such to issue the permits. There can be no hold ups.

Mr. Bianco: Maybe that's who we should be talking to. It's not right, electricians, plumbers get stepped right over because you've got to issue this permit.

Mr. Orman: What are you required to review? Commercial only?

Brian Hicks: Residential too.

[multiple discussions going on, inaudible, discussion regarding Currier Plastics expansion]

Mr. Orman: Who's the plumber on that job, Carl?

Mr. Castiglione: Some guy out of Syracuse....took the test a couple years ago....Alfie..?

Kim Bauso: Alfio LaRosa. ATL Plumbing.

Mr. Castiglione: He's got a permit for the job.

Mr. Bianco: What's Amico Plumbing doing there? At CurrierPlastics.

Mr. Castiglione: I don't know. The heat maybe.

Mr. Bianco: I've heard some horror stories, of not enforcing the Code, like plumbing and electrical, over there in Geneva, crazy stories! Customers don't want to get screwed in the deal do they?

Mr. Siracusa: Okay, Steve. Anything else?

Mr. Bianco: No.

Mr. Orman: Kim needs some information from us for the newsletter. Anybody got anything?

Kim Bauso: I've got these two items so far, the stickers & congratulation to new passed people. Anything else?

Mr. Orman: Put another reminder about the water heater permits.

Mr. Bianco: Just permits in general.

Mr. Gallinger: How about what Steve brought up? When these guys see other trucks around town, not licensed plumbers, give a call.

Mr. Orman: Can you do that, Kim? Word it correctly...

Brian Hicks: Something to the effect that you guys pay for your license every year, it's only fair that these other people do too. When you see someone who's unlicensed don't hesitate to call the Codes Office.

[Miscellaneous discussion, inaudible]

Mr. Orman: Also, Kim a reminder, all the licensed plumbers, we need to communicate with each other. Let them know when the next meeting's going to be.

Mr. Siracusa: All right, gentlemen. Anything else? Carl, you all set? When's the next meeting, Kim?

Kim Bauso: December 11th.

Mr. Siracusa: At 5:00. Everyone satisfied? Meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.